

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 66:8-20 read from the *Good News Bible*

***OPENING SONG:** “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” #138

SHARING JESUS' PEACE: The Peace of Christ Be with You

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively)

Leader: The God of heaven and earth calls us to explore matters of the Spirit.

People: There is so much we do not know or understand. So much of God is unknown to us.

Leader: Let's look carefully at our objects of worship. Our attention is easily diverted from God.

People: We want to worship the One who gives us breath. We reach for the Reality beyond our knowing.

Leader: In God, we live and move and have our being. All that we have and are comes from God.

People: God is not limited to shrines made by us. God is everywhere present in the whole universe.

OPENING PRAYER (read together)

Hear our prayers as we worship you this day, God. Bless us with your steadfast love, in times of peace and in times of trial. Make your presence known to us this day, for we seek to know you better. Enliven us with your Spirit of truth, and increase our faith, even as we place our hope and trust in you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We have been baptized and claimed in the name of Jesus for a lifetime of service. Yet we ignore the commandments God has given us. We would rather avoid looking at the ways we have sinned, but Jesus invites us to full confession, that we may be freed for new life. We need to face our guilt. Join with me as we pray together our prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (read together)

We confess, God, that we have loved our own way more than we love you. The Spirit of truth does not abide in us, for our actions belie the words of praise we utter in worship. We neglect the spiritual disciplines that would draw us close to you and the caring outreach that would link us with sisters, brothers, and siblings who need to know of your love. We have not witnessed to our faith in ways powerful enough to evoke opposition or cause us to suffer. It's hard to follow Jesus, God! Forgive us, teach us, help us! Amen.

A MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION AND REPENTANCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (read responsively)

Leader: God loves us and hears our prayers. God is waiting to flood our lives with healing and hope. We are reconciled to one another, our own best selves, and to God.

People: We will live in gentleness and reverence, as a people released from guilt and shame. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 14:15-21

***MIDDLE SONG:** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #358

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (read together)

We believe in God above us, Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.

We believe in Christ beside us, Companion and friend, redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.

We believe in Spirit deep within us, Advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.

We believe in God's resurrection created world, where all things are fixed, and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies.

We believe in God above, beside, within, God yesterday, today and forever, the three in one, the one in three.

We believe in God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI #734

FOCUS SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 3:13-22 read from *The Message*

MESSAGE: “Explain Yourself!” Pastor Burtnett

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Words #44

***DEDICATION OF OFFERING PRAYER**

We give that others may live, God. We give to praise you for life and love. May our tokens of your abundant blessings give guidance and hope to your children near and far. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG** “The World Is Full of Stories”

#558

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Call to Worship (adapted) and Prayer of Confession (adapted) are from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A*. The Call to Confession (adapted) is from *Taught by Love-Worship Resources for Year A* and *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2-Liturgical Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler. The Words of Assurance (adapted) are from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2-Liturgical Resources for Year A* by Lavon Bayler.. The Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2020* edited by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. The Affirmation of Faith is from the Lenten series *Journey into Wholeness* written by Christine Sine.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds
Lector: David Burrow
Worship Leader: Pastor Burnett
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May Radio Sponsor: Mark and Sandra Williams in honor of Pat Bilsborough for Mother’s Day

Birthdays: 5-20 Jimmy Tinneh, 5-22 Ginny Buchanan, Mick Schlievert

Newsletter articles for June and July are due in the office by May 29.
We will be taking the offering for Strengthen the Church on May 31.
There are still two months open for the radio broadcasts, July and October.

**First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Algona, Iowa**



“Where No One Is A Stranger”

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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